(ख) इस संबंध में सच्चाई क्या हैं;और

(ग) क्या भारत का इस संबंध में विश्व व्यापार संगठन से कोई शिकायत करने का विचार हैं ?

**वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बील्ला बुल्ली रमैया)**: (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

**Plan to *Enoaurage* Busines Oppcwtfunities in Central Asia**

2189. SHRI GOVIND RAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attenticfn has been drawn to the news report in the Times of India dated the 19th July, 1997 under the caption opportunities in Central Asia".

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the observations made therein and facts of the matter;

(c) the details of strategies and action plan worked out for encouraging investment in industry awd business opportunities in Centra] Asia for developing strong economic cooperaticii and bilateral relationship with Central Asian counlrie's; and

(d) the present status of the plan worked out for 1997-98 in this regnrd?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and(b) Yes, Sir. Tl-ie GovGrnnient nf India attaches great importance to trade and economic cooperation with the Centi-al Republics (CARs). Asian

(c) awd (d) The Government of India has signed Trade Agreements with all the five Central Asian Republics to provide an institutional framework for en-cifuraging trade and economic cooperation. A trilateral Agreement on Transit. Trade has also been signed between India, Iran and Turkinenstan to facilitate India's trade with the CARs. The? mechanism of Inter-Goervnmental. Com-mission is being operationalised to provide a bilateral forum for dscussicn on-matters of mutual interest including trade and investment issues. The Gov-ernment of lodia has approved setting up of a India Business Centre at Tash-kent to facilitate India's trade and investment in the region. The Apex Chambers are being encouraged to set up Joint Business Councils with their counter-parts in the CARs.

A delegation from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Air India and Indian Airlines visited Central Asia *in* April 1997 with the objective of strengthening air links with the region. A Banking Delegation from India visited Uzbekistan in February 1997. RBI has already accor-dede "in-principle" approval for opening a representative office of Punjab National Bank in Kazakhstan. ONGC Videsh Ltd. has ventured into oil ex,ploration sector in Pavlodar Region in Kazakhstan.

The Government of India has provided Li.nes of Credit to CARs to encurage bil-ateral trade. The details showing credit line sanctionedjcumulativie disbursement by Government of India to CARs is as under :—

| S.No. | Countries | Sanctioned Credit Lines fin US $Mn | Cumulative Disbur-sement(In Rs/crore) |
|---|---|---|---|
| *1* | Uzbekistan - - - - - - | 20 | 33 06 |
| 2 | Kazakhstan - - - - - - | 20 | 10.76 |
| 3 | Turkmenistan - - - - - - | 15 | 15.68 |
| 4 | Tajikistan - - - - - - | 5 | 16.02 . |
| 5 | Kyrghstan - - - - - - | 5 | Nil |